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Connectors and Transitional Expressions

Connectors, often called *conjunctive adverbs*, are used to connect basic sentence patterns to make compound sentences.¹ The principal connectors are:

however	else	therefore	otherwise	moreover	nevertheless
furthermore	hence	also	then		besides
consequently	likewise	meanwhile			accordingly

Notice the use of the connectors in the following compound sentences:

Alice moved to New York; *however*, her mother stayed in Boston.
You have disobeyed me; *therefore*, I will not help you again.
Harrison is kind; *moreover*, he is generous.
Television is entertaining; *furthermore*, it is instructive.
I prepared my English lesson; *also*, I wrote my French composition.
I live too far away to visit you often; *besides*, you are never home.
The road was wet and slippery; *consequently*, there were many accidents.
You must study hard; *else* you will fail.
The leaders settled the argument; *otherwise*, there would have been war.
Mr. Adams was an invalid all his life; *nevertheless*, he had an active career.
We must meet the deadline; *hence*, a decision is needed now.
I will study medicine for six years; *then* I will be a doctor.
He requested an opportunity to make up his absences; *accordingly*, his teacher gave him special help.
All of Mr. Jones' ancestors were sturdy and long-lived; *likewise*, he is very healthy at age seventy-five.

The normal **punctuation for sentences with connectors** is as follows:

Sentence pattern ; connector, sentence pattern
Sentence pattern ; *however*, sentence pattern

All connectors, except *then* and *else*, are usually followed by commas. Many connectors may occupy other positions in the sentence. Notice:

Alice moved to New York; *however*, her mother stayed in Boston.
Alice moved to New York; her mother, *however*, stayed in Boston.
The road was wet and slippery; *consequently*, there were accidents.
The road was wet and slippery; there were accidents, *consequently*.

¹ Connectors also serve as transitional expressions between sentences.

Here is the **punctuation pattern for connectors in other than normal position**.

Sentence pattern ; connector, sentence pattern
Sentence pattern;, connector,
Sentence pattern;, connector.

Compound Connectors

Some connectors consist of more than one word, but they serve exactly the same purpose as one-word connectors. Here are some examples:

in fact	on the contrary	on the one hand	on the other hand
as a result	in the meantime	in short	in sum
in a nutshell	in conclusion		

Observe their use in these sentences:

It is too late to finish the work; *in fact*, it is time to go home.
He is not a stupid boy; *on the contrary*, he is quite intelligent.
They may go to the concert; *on the other hand*, they may decide to attend a lecture.
John worked hard all year; *as a result*, he made excellent grades.
He is going to Spain next year; *in the meantime*, he is studying Spanish.

Transitional Expressions

Transitional expressions serve as bridges between spaces of time and help organize events in chronological order or time sequence.

1. *Addition*: additionally, as well, moreover, further, furthermore, besides, and, and then, likewise, also, nor, too, again, in addition, equally important, next, first, second, third, in the first place, in the second place, finally, last.
2. *Comparison and Similarity*: similarly, likewise, in like a manner, in the same manner, in the same way.
3. *Contrast or Opposition*: but, yet, and yet, however, still, nevertheless, on the other hand, on the contrary, after all, notwithstanding, for all that, in contrast to this, although this may be true, otherwise, in contrast, in spite of this, else.
4. *Purpose*: to this end, for this purpose, with this object.
5. *Result*: hence, therefore, accordingly, consequently, thus, thereupon, as a result, then, thereby, for this reason, that's why..., on this account.

6. *Summary and Conclusion*: to sum up, in brief, on the whole, in sum, in short, as I have said, in other words, that is, to be sure, as has been noted, for example, for instance, in fact, indeed, to tell the truth, in any event, in conclusion, to conclude, to summarize.
7. *Passing of Time*: meanwhile, at length, immediately, soon, after a few days, in the meantime, afterward, later, henceforth, eventually, lately, after a while, at last, presently, recently, since then, since..., after that, temporarily, thereafter.
8. *Concession or Admission of Facts*: after all, although, and yet, at the same time, granted, naturally, of course, perhaps, maybe, to tell the truth.
9. *Exemplification*: for example, e.g., for instance, namely, incidentally, indeed, in fact, in other words, in particular, particularly, specifically, that is (to say), i.e., as I have said, as has been noted.
10. *Sequence or numerical order*: first, firstly, in the first place, first off, second, secondly, in the second place, third, thirdly, then, next, last, lastly, finally.

Conjunctive adverbs and transitional phrases used as conjunctive adverbs:

accordingly henceforth nevertheless also however on the contrary anyhow
in addition on the other hand as a result indeed otherwise at the same time
in fact still besides in other words that is consequently instead then
for example likewise therefore furthermore meanwhile thus hence moreover

Use a semicolon before one of these words or phrases when it connects main clauses. Use a comma after it only if you consider it distinctly parenthetical.

John broke his ankle skiing; then he bought a snowmobile.

The new regulation permits numerous absences; however, it does not encourage them.

Any medicine can be dangerous; for example, even aspirin can cause illness.

Transitional Expressions Used in Narration

Expressions showing continuation of thought

first, second, third, etc. too that is to say moreover again in this manner
further now in the same way finally then in any case likewise furthermore
in addition to indeed for example in fact also in other words incidentally

Expressions showing passing of time

after a short (long) time lately temporarily after a while presently then
afterward recently thereafter at last since then eventually

Expressions showing result

accordingly therefore as a result thus naturally on this account
hence for this reason because of this consequently

Expressions showing opposition

still however on the contrary nevertheless on the other hand
it must be confessed but in spite of this notwithstanding yet

Transitional Expressions Used in Argumentation

Transitional words and expressions used when writing narratives are essential in writing good arguments. They help to produce a smooth-flowing style, leading the reader from one reason to another until, finally, he comes to the conclusion. They link sentences and paragraphs together. Here are the transitional expressions again in review:

To show the passing of time

after a short (long) time lately since after a while presently then afterward
recently temporarily at last since then thereafter

To show addition

again besides in addition also further likewise and furthermore
moreover and then

To show contrast or opposition

after all in spite of on the other hand but nevertheless it must be confessed
despite notwithstanding still however on the contrary yet in contrast

To show comparison and similarity

in a like manner in the same way
likewise similarly

To show concession, or to admit facts

after all at the same time of course although granted perhaps
and yet naturally

To show examples

for example in fact particularly for instance in other words specifically
incidentally in particular that is indeed namely

To show sequence or numerical order

first	in the first place	then	second	in the second place	finally
third	next	last			

To show result

accordingly	then	as a result	hence
consequently	therefore	thereby	thus

To summarize

in brief	in short	to conclude
in conclusion	on the whole	to summarize

References:

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